

Message Text

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UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0272

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, MILI, SW
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER SODER'S RESPONSE IN RIKSDAG TO QUESTIONS
ON JANUARY 5 INCIDENT

REF: STOCKHOLM 0202 (DTG 171030Z JAN 77) AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF FOREIGN MINISTER SODER'S
RESPONSE IN THE RIKSDAG ON JANUARY 19 TO THE QUESTION POSED
BY FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN HERMANSSON ON THE
JANUARY 5 INCIDENT INVOLVING US AND SOVIET AIRCRAFT OVER
THE BALTIC. THE SUMMARY WAS PREPARED BY A MEMBER OF THE
EMBASSY'S STAFF WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE EXCHANGE.

2. QUESTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER BY RIKSDAG
MEMBER C.H. HERMANSSON (VPK): WHAT MEASURES DOES THE
GOVERNMENT PROPOSE TO TAKE REGARDING THE REPEATED
VIOLATION OF SWEDISH AIRSPACE AND THE THREAT TO CIVIL
AIR SAFETY BY AMERICAN SPY AIRCRAFT?

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3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS,
POINTING OUT THAT IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT RECONNAISSANCE
AIRCRAFT FROM BOTH THE EAST AND THE WEST ARE CONSTANTLY
OPERATING IN THE VICINITY OF SWEDEN AND ESPECIALLY OVER
THE BALTIC. SHE SAID THAT SWEDISH CONTINGENCY READINESS
WAS SATISFACTORY, THAT THE AREAS IN QUESTION WERE UNDER
REGULAR SURVEILLANCE BY SWEDISH RADAR AND THAT SWEDISH

AIRCRAFT WERE ALWAYS READY TO LAUNCH TO EXPEL INTRUDERS. SHE ADDED THAT THERE ARE SOMETHING LIKE TWENTY VIOLATIONS OF SWEDISH AIRSPACE A YEAR AND THAT SWEDISH AIR FORCE PLANES LAUNCH DAILY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROUTINE INVOLVED HERE.

4. SHE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT THE THREE INCIDENTS IN QUESTION DID NOT INVOLVE SWEDISH AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS AND THAT IN THE LATEST INCIDENT, JANUARY 5, THE SWEDISH TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITIES WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECTOR OF THE AIR CORRIDOR WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED. KARIN SODER CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT A COMMITTEE HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE JANUARY INCIDENT AND THAT, IN THE MEANTIME, THERE WAS NO MORE SHE COULD SAY.

5. HERMANSSON RESPONDED BY SAYING HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSURANCES, BUT HE ASKED TWO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS: HOW MANY SUCH INCIDENTS HAVE ACTUALLY OCCURRED RECENTLY? COULD THE FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISE A REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY?

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED THAT SHE DID NOT KNOW, AS FOREIGN MINISTER, HOW MANY SUCH INCIDENTS THERE HAD BEEN. BUT, SHE SAID, SHE FELT SURE THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION AND PROBABLY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, TOO, HAD ADEQUATE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, AND THAT SHE WOULD CERTAINLY BE INFORMED IF ANY SUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD REQUIRE HER ATTENTION.

7. IN REPLY TO THE SECOND QUESTION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT A REPORT WOULD BE ISSUED IN DUE COURSE ON THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY. SMITH

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